

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: CARR-1283

Property Name: Robert A. Martin House

Property Address: 251 Pleasant Valley Road
Westminster, Maryland

The Robert A. Martin House located at 251 Pleasant Valley Road has been demolished according to the *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Report* prepared for the Carroll County Regional Airport by Coastal Caroline Research.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Demolished

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 251 Pleasant Valley Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Westminster ☒ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Martin

street & number 251 Pleasant Valley Road telephone no.: 848-7988

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21157

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse Annex liber 552

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio 310

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

te ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1283

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY: The Robert A. Martin House is a two-story, three bay by two bay farmhouse on a fieldstone foundation. It is constructed of frame with brick insulation, although some of the exterior walls may be of log (according to oral interviews), and the exterior is currently covered in aluminum siding. It has a gable roof covered in standing seam sheet metal with rebuilt brick chimneys at each gable end. The three bay main facade faces south and has a central entrance although the door was recently replaced by the present owner. Other bays on the main facade and on the east and west gable ends have tall six-over-six sash windows. The north facade contained a double-tiered porch that has been partially enclosed. The architecture of the interior is fairly uniform in detailing from the late 19th century, including door moldings, window frames and box locks with 1880s patent dates. In the basement, log floor joists can be viewed towards the front of the house which may be reused timbers from an earlier structure. Also in the basement is a large stone fireplace which seems unusual for a late 19th century farmhouse.

The farm complex includes several period outbuildings, although the large bank barn was destroyed when its roof was blown off during a hurricane. Only the foundation of the barn remains today. To the rear of the farmhouse is a one-story, board-and-batten washhouse which appear to be contemporary to the construction of the house. North of the washhouse is a 20th century chicken house and a board-and-batten smokehouse of recent construction. Adjoining the barn foundation is a wagon shed and on the north and east sides of the barn foundation are three concrete silos.

DESCRIPTION: The Robert A. Martin House is located on a hilltop north of Meadow Branch Road, approximately .5 mile west of Littlestown Pike. The farm complex sits at the end of a .7 mile long dirt lane, which was once part of a through road known as Shade's Schoolhouse Road. The hilltop site has a commanding view of the rolling Piedmont countryside to the south. While the surrounding land is primarily agricultural, the fields to the east of the farm complex composed an open pit limonite (iron ore) mine during the late 19th century. These iron ore banks are shown on the 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County when the property was owned by the Erb family. During the early 20th century, the open pit was used as a trash dump and in the mid-20th century the accumulated trash was cleaned out and the pit was filled-in with dirt.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1283

Description (continued)

Section 7. Page 2

The farmhouse is a two-story, three bay by two bay structure on a fieldstone foundation. From renovation work done by Robert A. Martin where the structure was exposed, it is constructed of frame with brick insulation. This was a popular framing technique in this region during the late 19th century. However, some of the exterior walls may be of log, according to an oral interview with Margaret B. Jordan who lived in the house from 1906 to 1919. She recalls that a log wall was exposed when putting in the stove. The exterior is currently covered in aluminum siding.

The house has a gable roof covered in standing seam sheet metal with rebuilt brick chimneys at each gable end. From the attic, it can be seen that the chimney on the east gable end has been reduced in size. The roof framing system is 2X3 rafters butted together without a ridge piece nor any mortise and tenons.

The three bay main facade faces south and has a central entrance. There is a full-length, one-story porch with a hipped roof supported by square posts. The central entrance has single pane transom but the door and side panels were recently installed by the present owner when the existing door blew down during a storm.

Other bays on the main facade and on the east and west gable ends have tall six-over-six sash windows. These windows are late 19th century in style and shape. The original wood frames are not exposed but are covered in aluminum siding.

The north facade contained a double-tiered porch which is formed by a projection (catslide) of the rear portion of the roof. This porch has been completely enclosed except for a small section at first story level of the northwest corner. A portion of the porch was enclosed at an earlier date, perhaps originally, to form a projecting pantry -- a feature that was popular in this region in the late 19th century. This is probably a later alteration to the house due to the fact that the back wall of the main block (within the enclosed porch) is covered in a five-inch wide weatherboard, while the pantry (also viewed within the enclosed porch) is covered in German siding. Margaret B. Jordan remembers that her father, J. Wesley Beggs, tore out the interior partition to convert the pantry to a kitchen during their residency in the house, 1906 to 1919.

The house currently has a three-room plan and interior remodeling of the west room (replastering of the walls, wall

to wall carpet) prevents analysis for any indications for determining whether the original plan was four rooms. The central partition through the house is enclosed stairways -- both a front stair and back stair -- with doors opening off the stairs into each room and a small passage provided between the two stairways.

The mantelpieces have been removed from the house and the remaining woodwork -- serpentine molded window and door frames, bulbous bannisters and newel posts on the main stair, four paneled doors throughout the house -- are uniform in detailing from the late 19th century. The box locks are also fairly uniform throughout the house and have 1880s patent dates..

In the basement, log floor joists can be viewed towards the front of the house which may be reused timbers from an earlier structure. Also in the basement is a large stone fireplace which seems unusual for a late 19th century farmhouse. Historical documentation shows that there was a house on this property as early as 1840. One theory about the evolution of the house would be that there was a log structure on the site of the present house that was totally encapsulated by a major renovation of the structure circa 1890.

Historical archaeology at the Phase I level, however, did not turn up the range and type of artifacts for a site occupied as early as 1840. While these findings were not conclusive, the architectural analysis of the farmhouse provides documentation that the building, as it stands today is almost completely a circa 1890s structure.

The farm complex includes several period outbuildings, although the large bank barn was destroyed when its roof was blown off during a hurricane. Only the broad fieldstone foundation of the barn remains today. On the east gable end of the barn foundation is a concrete block foundation of a 20th century addition to the barn. One concrete silo is located east of the barn and two concrete silos are located on the north side. Attached to the west side of the barn is a row of frame machinery sheds: a shed-roofed tractor shed, a gable-roofed, board-and-batten wagon shed with cribs, and a shed-roofed garage. A modern metal horse barn sits east of this entire complex.

To the rear of the farmhouse is a one-story, board-and-batten washhouse which appears to be contemporary to the construction of the house. The washhouse has a rectangular plan with the

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1283

Description (continued)

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dimensions 14 X 20 feet. It is constructed of frame on a fieldstone foundation and has a gable roof covered in standing seam sheet metal. The south elevation faces the farmhouse and has a door, six-over-six window, and a one-story porch with shed roof. The east elevation has a three-over-six sash window and a six-pane window in the gable. The north elevation has a six-over-six sash window and the west elevation is unfenestrated. A brick chimney rises from the peak of the roof at the west gable end.

North of the washhouse is a small complex of domestic buildings. There is a frame chicken house with a shed roof. The windows of the chicken house, which face west, have been replaced. There is also a board-and-batten smokehouse built about 1975.

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1283

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

HISTORY: The Robert A. Martin house, as it stands today, is primarily a late 19th century structure, and was most likely built about 1890. Historical documentation shows that the property had a farmhouse on it as early as 1840, and some remnants of the earlier structure may be reused as part of the existing structure. The property was subject to several Equity Court cases through the 19th century due to an unclear will of 1840. The field on the east side of the farm complex was a small open pit iron ore mine. The mine was in use as early as 1877, because it is indicated on the Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County published in that year.

HISTORY: The Robert A. Martin house is difficult to date. Architectural analysis of the structure presents clear evidence the the structure as it stands today is primarily a late 19th century building. Historical documentation shows that the property had a farmhouse on it as early as 1840. Phase I historical archaeology indicates that the earlier house on this property may have been located in a different location than the present house, based on the quantity and type of artifacts recovered in units dug at the rear of the current house adjoining the washhouse.

The architecture of the farmhouse is fairly uniform around a late 19th century date of construction, although some structural material may be reused from an earlier building, including log floor joists in the basement and evidence from oral interviews that some exterior walls are constructed of log. The possibility also exists that an original log house was completely enclosed in a late 19th century major renovation of the structure, especially in light of the large stone fireplace in the basement.

The Land Records of Carroll County show that the property comprising the Robert A. Martin House was under dispute for much of the 19th century. In 1840, Magdalena Rinehart died

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1283

Land and Equity Court Records of Carroll County, Maryland
Lake Griffin & Stevenson, Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County,
Maryland, 1877.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name New WindsorQuadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe Gettyorganization Noodle-Doosey Pressdate November 1986street & number P. O. Box 716telephone (301) 374-2605city or town Manchesterstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

leaving her real property to her grandson and granddaughters. The grandsons renounced the inheritance, leaving the property to two minor grandchildren. In Equity Court case #336, the property was partitioned in two and the corresponding plats show that a farmhouse was located on each farm.

In 1864, questions were raised about the earlier partitioning, and the property was again sold under court order (Equity Court case #761). The 145 acre parcel was sold to John T. Erb for \$5700, the purchase price indicating that there were improvements on the property at that time.

The property remained in the Erb family until 1901, when it was in Equity Court again (case #3827) for default of a mortgage. While the land records provide no exact documentation of when the current improvements were made, they may have occurred around 1879 when Samuel Erb purchased the property from John T. Erb, or they may have occurred closer to 1901 if the mortgage which was in default was a mortgage taken to construct the current house. Architectural details of the house, including uniform moldings and cast iron box locks, suggest a date of circa 1890 for its construction.

The field on the east side of the farm complex was a small open pit iron ore mine. The mine is indicated on the 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County. Residents during the early 20th century recall the use of the open pit from the mine as a site for dumping trash. This was filed in with dirt by the Essich family in the mid-20th century.

Owners of the property during the 20th century were J. Wesley Beggs, John D. Kauffman, Charles F. Essich, Albert H. Essich, Charles J. Miller, Sr., and Robert A. Martin.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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CARR-1283

Robert A. Martin House: Chain-of-Title

552/310	8/31/1973	C. J. Miller, Sr. to Robert A. & Janet Martin	13.434 a.	
528/324	12/1/1972	Albert H. & Mary E. Essich to C. J. Miller, Sr.		
192/149	10/14/1946	Charles F. & Cora Essich to Albert H. & Mary E. Essich	132 a.	
155/167	2/13/1931	Anna V. Kauffman, widow, to Charles F. & Cora Essich		
147/5	10/13/1925	J. Wesley & Clara S. Beggs to John D. & Anna V. Kauffman		
100/130	8/15/1904	Westminster Savings Bank to J. Wesley & Clara S. Beggs	139 a.	\$5570
92/150	2/18/1901	E. Oliver Grimes, Assig. of Mortgage to Westminster Savings Bank Equity Court Case # 3827	138 a.	\$4160
40/379	3/25/1870	Samuel Erb, Trustee, to John T. Erb Equity Court Case # 761	145 a.	\$5700

Equity Court Case # 336, Estate of Magdalena Rinehart

324

CARR-1283

ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE

U.S.G.S.: New Windsor, Md.
1:24000 Scale

327

328





1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. November 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. S & W elev (camera fac NE)
7. 1/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. November 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. E & N elev (camera fac sw)
7. 2/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. S elev. -- transom detail
7. 3/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. S elev. -- front door
7. 4/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. S elev -- window frame
7. 5/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. November 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Washhouse, s & e elev.
7. 6/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. November 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Washhouse, n&w elev
7. 7/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Washhouse, S & w elev
7. 8/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. Wagon shed, S & w elev
7. 9/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Chicken house, W & S elev
7. 10/11



1. CARR-1283 ROBERT A. MARTIN HOUSE
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. September 1986
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Smokehouse, W & S elev
7. 11/11